What Is Claimed Is:

1. A method for checking a bore hole, which is introduced in a workpiece by laser pulses, characteristic signals from the region of the bore hole being received with the aid of a sensor and compared to setpoint values, wherein only signals received within in characteristic time interval following a laser pulse are taken into account.

2. The method as recited in Claim 1, wherein the characteristic time interval is defined as a function of material properties of the workpiece and process parameters of the laser pulse, preferably in such a way that the time interval begins as soon as the material melted by a preceding laser pulse has solidified again, the time interval ending as soon as a new laser pulse occurs.

3. The method as recited in one of the preceding claims, wherein signals of an optical and/or thermal type are received, which are emitted or reflected from the region of the bore hole.

4. The method as recited in one of the preceding claims, wherein the signals are received with the aid of a CCD camera or a CMOS camera.

5. The method as recited in one of the preceding claims, wherein, starting with the beginning of the time interval, a measuring signal of an optical and/or thermal type is emitted in the direction of the region of the bore hole.

6. The method as recited in one of the preceding claims, wherein the check is carried out with respect to the

piercing of the workpiece wall and/or deviations from a predefined bore hole geometry.